

www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

NO. 13

GREETINGS

On behalf of the 2010 slate of officers for our new Sister Cities of Arlington, Texas 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization, elected in February at the 2010 Annual Meeting, greetings from all of us! As your newly elected President, I look forward to seeing you on Monday, June 21, at 6 pm at Buck n Loons Restaurant, 3517 S. Cooper Street. Please join us for dinner followed by our business meeting to discuss several updates regarding plans for our 60th Anniversary celebration. Please RSVP to Ellen Brooke at Ellen.Brooke@arlingtontx.gov so she can give the restaurant an accurate headcount.

We will be asking for your help and creative ideas as we discuss:

- Plans for the 60th Anniversary celebration with our friends in Bad Königshofen;
- Need for a person to take the lead in handling PR for our organization;
- Need for an individual to take the lead in growing our membership;
- Someone to lead fund-raising for our 60th Anniversary event planning;
- News from Sheri Capehart on the current status of future plans for a Christkindlmarkt.

Our Treasurer, Ellen Brooke, will be collecting 2010 dues: \$30 for a family, \$20 for an individual, or \$10 for a student. If you are not

able to come to the meeting, a membership form is available on our web site at:

www.arlingtontx.gov/sistercity/index.html

Please print out the form and mail it along with your check to the address on the form.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us June 21 and help our organization grow by spreading the word about our partnership with our wonderful friends in Bad Königshofen.

I am looking forward to seeing you, at 6 pm on June 21 at Buck n Loons. Hope to see you there!!!

Shelia Gibson

KEEPING UP RELATIONSHIPS

By Guest Columnist, Julia Burgen

My visit to Germany in 2007 resulted in a long distance friendship with Elvira and Albin Heumann. I speak no German and neither of them speak any English. My roommate, Sheila Gibson, and I had a grand time playing charades and all manner of efforts to communicate. They were delightful to know and so very gracious, despite the language barrier.

We frequently exchange cards. They send some lovely ones at Christmas and on an occasional trip. I have made a point to send postcards to them from New York City, San Diego, New Hampshire – places that I have been to visit family members. Usually before I

leave home I use the internet for translations and come up with 3 or 4 sentences in German that I can use on the cards. I felt it was important for me to make the effort. The Heumanns have a daughter who lives not too far from them, who can read English, and Elvira has a neighbor woman who can translate English. Letters from Elvira, of course, are in German. Dr. Ulrich Herrmann, retired UTA Physics professor, and his wife Marianne have been my translators.

Our German friends always seem so interested in things Texan, and I had experienced that interest in 2000 when I accompanied Jack on a business trip to Munich. At dinner in a pub one evening we listened to one of the men with Siemens describe their upcoming trip to Phoenix where they would rent a motor home and spend three weeks going around Arizona and nearby states. It wasn't their first time to do it either, and others at dinner also commented on similar trips to the U.S. So in January I got two of the big official State of Texas calendars from Representative Diane Patrick, one for the Heumanns and one for Bürgermeister Thomas Helbling. In addition, for my host family I went to Half Price Books and bought four back issues of *Texas Parks and Wildlife* and *Texas Highways* magazines, choosing ones which had especially good seasonal and tourist type photos from around the state.

Then I asked my friends, the Herrmanns, to translate my one page letter into German and mailed the package off to Bad Königshofen.

So there are creative ways to keep in touch despite miles and language barriers. Perhaps some of you readers can share other ideas and ways to keep these long-distance friendships alive.

THE GERMAN BAND OF NORTH TEXAS

By Jim Stiebing

The German Band of North Texas is not an oompah band. It is a very good orchestra, and is becoming better playing authentic German

music from the 18th and 19th centuries. The musicians are talented and are some of the best with their instruments in North Texas. Ed Lobb, the bandmaster and founder of the band, is a talented conductor and a knowledgeable German music historian.

Ed has traveled to Germany to find original music, much of which has not been heard in many years. He has a number of contacts in Germany who have made their archives of music available to him. Not only is the music from the past but so are a number of the band instruments which Ed has collected. Some of the brass instruments are rotary-valve instead of piston-valve so common in modern instruments. What you hear at a band concert is music played the way it was when it was first written and with a mix of instruments from the time period.

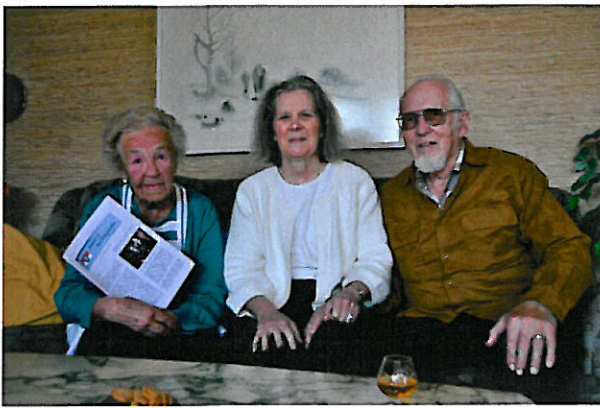
The band does play orchestral arrangements of some oompah music. Nothing like an orchestra playing "Roll Out the Barrel." Ed detests the "Chicken Dance" but will, under pressure from audience and band members, hold his nose and let the band play it. Of course an orchestral arrangement of oompah music is nothing like you would hear from a four-piece Bavarian band.

You can learn more about the band at the following web site:
<http://staff.tcu.edu/rcobb/>

OUR TRIP TO GERMANY

By Gerhard & Martha Liehse

Seeing our friends again in Bad Königshofen was the highlight of our recent trip to Germany. On the Friday afternoon of our arrival we enjoyed a visit with Mrs. Edith Zühlke, the widow of Kurt Zühlke, who as City Manager of Bad Königshofen met with Arlington's Mayor Tom Vandergriff in 1951, thus beginning the two cities' friendship. We took Mrs. Zühlke a copy of each of our last two Friends of Bad Königshofen newsletters, as she likes to keep up with partnership news.



Edith Zühlke with Martha and Gerhard
Photo by Hanns Friedrich

The next day, local reporter and historian Hanns Friedrich spent the morning with us in the Bad Königshofen area and showed us the town's new "Gradierpavillon," an addition to their health resort. The interior walls of the pavilion are lined with tightly bundled twigs, and mineral water drips down over the walls, creating salty air inside the pavilion. In the afternoon Helmut and Bärbel Zehner took us to Bad Neustadt, about 12 miles away, where we visited the old castle named "Salzburg." In the evening there was a large get-together with great food at a new restaurant in town. It was great to see so many friends of Arlington again.

On Sunday we had a short visit with Wilhelm Herzog, who first visited Arlington in 1992 and who has remained a loyal friend of Arlington. We were happy to learn that his daughter would very much like to come to Arlington with the Bad Königshofen delegation in 2012. We spent a wonderful afternoon with Bürgermeister Thomas Helbling, his wife Sabine and daughter Annabell. After a delicious barbecued lunch at their home, they, along with Hanns Friedrich, showed us the newly -- and beautifully -- completed renovation of one of the oldest buildings in Bad Königshofen. It was built in the 17th century as an arsenal, later became a brewery, and will now become the Culture Arsenal and Partnership House. It will be used for lectures, concerts, exhibits and receptions, and one of the rooms will have a permanent display about the history of our sister cities partnership. They have just received grant funding for the interior furnishing of the building and it will be dedicated this year.



Culture Arsenal and Partnership House
Photo by Hanns Friedrich

On our last day in Bad Königshofen we visited another true friend of Arlington, Susi Eschenbach, who first came to Arlington with the delegation in 1988, and then we had a good visit with former Bürgermeister Clemens Behr and his wife Ingrid, who are enjoying their retirement.

Everyone we visited reminisced about great times they have had in Arlington and with folks from Arlington and all said to say hello to everyone they know in their sister city. They are looking forward to hosting a delegation of visitors in July 2011 and have already begun planning the program for their Arlington friends.

NEWS

The Arlington Historical Society just published a book called *Arlington in World War II*. It describes Arlington just before, during and after the war, and tells the individual stories of the Arlington men who lost their lives in the war effort. The author, Arlington resident Beverly Reynolds, has included an account of the 1951 beginning of the Arlington/Bad Königshofen partnership as it was related to the aftermath of the war. Accompanying the book is a DVD which includes many photos of Arlington in the 1940s. The book and DVD together are available for purchase at the Fielder House for \$20.

MORE NEWS

Mark your calendar already for the 48th Annual **German Pioneer Ball**, on **October 9** at the

Sheraton Grand DFW in Irving (same place as last year). We will have tickets for sale in August. Please contact Martha Liehsel at Liehsel@windstream.net to reserve your tickets, which this year will include the chance to win two roundtrip tickets to Germany on Lufthansa German Airlines.

SPOTLIGHT



Hanna Warner in 2008
Photo by Kyle Hellier

A Student's Research Paper

From the Hellier family in Arlington we have received a copy of a wonderful research paper written by 19-year-old Bad Königshofen student Hanna Warner. Hanna's family was the host family of Kyle Hellier when Kyle visited Bad Königshofen in July 2008 with a group of Arlington students led by Martin High School social studies teacher Juliann Warner. Hanna wrote the paper about our sister cities partnership as her senior research project. She has just graduated from high school and wants to become a dentist. She loves shopping, roller blading, hanging with friends and going to the cinema.

In the Introduction of her paper, she refers to the 2008 visit by Arlington students in Bad Königshofen:

"I enjoyed the short time very much and also learned something about Texas and its population. Although the students have another culture and language, and even are from another continent, I made some friends amongst them. Above all, I was especially impressed by the open-mindedness with which they met us, strangers from a different part of the world.

"As a consequence, the growing interest in the history of my hometown and the encounter with these people made me choose the town twinning between Bad Königshofen and Arlington as the topic of my research paper.

"The aim of my research paper is to show that gratitude for Arlington's help still exists, even in the present generation, and that the interest in the maintenance of the friendship between Bad Königshofen and Arlington still continues. I hope my work can contribute to never forget the origin of this friendship."

In her paper, Hanna continues by briefly outlining the history of Bad Königshofen and Arlington before and after 1951. She then covers the history of the partnership itself from 1951 to the present, including the aid shipments, the dedication in 1988 of the Bad Königshofen Recreation Area in S.J. Stovall Park, the two friendship boulders and monuments, the 50th Anniversary celebrations, the Bad Königshofen Family Aquatic Center in Arlington and, of course, the friendships that have developed between the people of the two cities.

Hanna also includes an interview with Arlington student Michael Desrosiers, who was also part of the visiting Martin High School group, and with Bürgermeister Thomas Helbling.

We quote here Hanna's concluding paragraphs:

"The origin of the town twinning was in 1951. At that time the connection existed most of all due to Arlington's aid deliveries. After the last shipment had reached its final destination, a period without much contact between the cities started. It was only in 1988, when Mayor Wolfgang Mack became the first mayor to visit

Königshofen's sister city, that mutual visits and a growing friendship resumed. Although Bad Königshofen and Arlington are quite unequal cities, with a different history of origins and quite different developments since the twinning started, the friendship still persists 59 years later and differences in language and culture have been overcome.

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Jim Stiebing

"2008 was the first time that students from Arlington visited Bad Königshofen and stayed with host families. Because of meeting the students, Michael and Kyle, I realized that it is worth while not to be blinded by prejudices and that every person should be given the chance to show their own character. At first, Texas made me think of cowboy hats mainly and Chuck Norris type persons. Now I know that while a lot of things seem to be bigger in Texas, and still, the people there have the same dreams and problems as the people here. Michael also noticed that life here, and some 8,000 kilometers away in Arlington, is broadly similar. It is interesting to know his opinion about the town twinning and our life style in Bad Königshofen.

"Moreover, I was very pleased to learn that Mayor Helbling backed the idea of a student exchange in the near future, because I hope other students will have the opportunity to know the warmth of Arlington's residents.

"In conclusion, this friendship shows that even people from the other end of the world are willing to share sorrow and are interested in the wellbeing of strangers."

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Next Meeting of BK Friends, Monday, June 21, at Buck 'n Loons, 6 pm.
- BK Picnic, Sunday, September 19
- Father's Day, Sunday, June 20